



# Inside Michigan History

Sponsored by "Friends of Michigan History"  
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Volume 1 Issue 1- Jan-March, 2008

## Friends Annual Veteran's Tribute

Master of Ceremonies Ken Beachler kicked off the ceremony by ordering the "Presentation of the Colors", while Terry Carroll played the pipes. Upon the entire assemblage pledging allegiance, Bus Spaniola introduced Sgt. Donald Burgett, our guest speaker. Sgt. Burgett spoke for 45 minutes about his exploits in service as a paratrooper in the 101st Screaming Eagles, during WWII. Joining the US Army on his 18th birthday, Sgt. Burgett became a member of the 101st Airborne Division and was dropped behind the lines in Normandy during the Allied invasion of Europe. Burgett talked about his daily combat experiences, of the terrific fighting and the heavy losses of men and material in taking the villages, bridges, and roadways, while waiting for Allied forces and heavy equipment to catch up with them inland. Knowing that German Panzers and SS Divisions were waiting in support to come quickly to reinforce their beach defenses, they brazenly fought to hold the high ground.



Sgt. Burgett has a good sense of humor, coupled with a frank honesty in describing what he witnessed and participated in during the Invasion, fighting in Holland, holding off the Germans at Bastogne, crossing the Rhine, and finally ending up in Hitler's "Eagles Nest", in Berchtesgaden. He returned to the U.S. at age 20 a decorated, thrice wounded G.I. who was still without age authority to vote (21 yrs.) or sign a contract to buy a car. Sgt. Burgett was presented with an engraved plaque and commemorative WWII knife, by Friends members Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, and Ken Beachler.

Mr. Burgett is the author of Currahee: A paratrooper's account of the Normandy invasion; The Road to Arnhem: A Screaming Eagle in Holland; Seven Roads to Hell: A Screaming Eagle at Bastogne, and Beyond the Rhine: A Screaming Eagle in Germany.

## Ft. Wayne Meeting and Tour of Facilities

The "Friends" Board of Directors held their August meeting on-site at Historic Fort Wayne. Our hosts, the Fort Wayne Preservation Society, graciously gave us a complete tour of the grounds and buildings presently being restored. Board

members toured the soldiers' billets, powder vault, block houses, cannon emplacements, armory, post office, and the brig, while being briefed on the historic significance of this unique

location on the Detroit river. Fort Wayne was utilized as an Army draft enlistment and distribution center right up until the 1960's. The Friends Board authorized a donation to be used for continued restoration of this great Michigan military monument to Michigan history.



## Jackson Civil War Muster

The Civil War Muster held in Jackson was a huge success. Over 10,000 visitors observed more than 2100 re-enactors as they camped, drilled, and fought during the 3 day event held in the Jackson Cascades Park. Families dressed in 1860's costumes, paraded, and played amid the myriad of tents, wagons, horses, cannons and accoutrements of Civil War symbolism. President Lincoln was there along with an entourage of characters who spoke of the times and turmoil of the era in which they lived.



The Friends maintained a small photo board/exhibit advertising the benefits of membership and extolling the rich Michigan heritage we've all come to love. It was indeed a fun-filled fair-like festival which is expected to be even bigger next year. As one of the contributing sponsors of the event, the Friends purchased battle flag streamers for each military unit that participated in the re-enactment.

## History, Arts and Libraries Budget is Approved and Goes to the Governor for Signature

The History, Arts and Libraries Conference Committee unveiled the department's budget with an overall cut of just over \$806,000. The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) was funded at \$7,754,000 for arts and cultural grants along with providing for 5 full-time Employees.

While this is still a \$2.6 million cut from the total HAL Budget for FY07/08, this is tremendous news for arts and cultural organizations throughout the state that had already faced the potential of further cuts. The conference committee chairs, Senator Tom George and Representative Aldo Vagnozzi, believed that while this is not what everyone wanted this was a good step in fighting to provide increased funding for arts and cultural grants

## Upcoming Needs for Historical Preservation

Conservation of Historical Photographs. State Archivist Mark Harvey indicated that the state is currently in the process of conserving Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs (Leavenworth Collection) and will need support in the range of \$5,000. According to Mr. Harvey, there was an immediate need for boxes and envelopes to begin the segregation process of the Leavenworth collection. Negatives will be segregated, re-housed in acid free containers and original negatives will be frozen until they can be reproduced. Due to the hazards of the material, the negatives are currently stored offsite. The degradation problem is immediate. A conservation expert has estimated that the state would lose 5 to 15 percent of the collection each year if no action is taken.

## Welcome to Our New Friends

Hon. Spencer & Jane Abraham	Fernando Fernandez	Rose Keating	Wendy Murray	Ralph Stroud
John Adams	Yasdany Fernandez	Frank & Nancy Kelley	Joseph Nicosia	Richard & Beverly Suhrheinrich
Arweitia Beasley	Dale Fisher	Kathy & Gary Kerr	Molly Norrell	Morris & Carol Thomas
Janice Bellandgear	Peter Fletcher	Christine Keyes	Betty Osterrout	Ronald & Dawn Thornton
Timothy Black	James Franck	Justin & Gina King	Eric Parsons	Carol & Roy Tinsley
Karen Burgess	James Fraties	Debra Knooihuisen	Jan Plumridge	Florentino Ventura
James Burnham	Joseph & Sandra Frauenheim	Margaret & Steven Knop	Kathryn Quinlan	Christina Vickers
Heather Cadaret	Barbara Gabriele	Russell Kosenko	William & Elizabeth Rands	Ted Waka
Patricia & Gerald Castonguay	Esteben & Shonda Garcia	Elizabeth Laakso	Patricia Reiff-Roemmele	Leona Warner
Randall Cates	Duane Getzmeyer	Kay Laing	Diana Reinke	William & Stephanie Whitbeck
John Cherry	Matthew Gleason	Ted Ligibel	Terry & Bruce Reinoehl	Bette Wogen
Eddie Childers	Larry Govaere	Michael MacCario	Craig & Janice Ruff	
Karen Corbeille	Paul & Nancy Hillegonds	Neill MacLeod-Hunter	William Rutter	<b>FAYETTE</b>
Nicholas & Vickie Cousino	Tom Hoisington	Billy & Bertha Martin	Gary Schlee	Harry Frederick
Daryl & Susan Dash	Barbara Holleman	Pat & Suzanne McGarity	Evan Sessions	J. Thomas MacFarlane
Mark & Sandy DeNoyelles	Clyde Howarth	Blanche McKinney	Kathleen Sommers	
Robert & Shirley DeNoyer	Susanne & Bill Janis	Glenn McKinney	Brian Spencer	<b>WALKER TAVERN</b>
Lee Ann Deseranno	Richard Jardine	Patrice & Grady Merritt	Matthew & Valerie Sperling	Pat Sharpnack
Linda Dupke	Eric Jones	Jeffrey Mock	Tina Sternbergh	
Karl Ellis	Dorothy Karas	Linda Mullen	Clayton Stevens	



# News Notes from Friends' Affiliates

## Walker Tavern Historic Site

From stagecoaches to automobiles Walker Tavern stands at the crossroads of travel history. This wayside inn was a busy stagecoach stop on the main road from Detroit to Chicago in the 1840s. In the 1920s, Walker was a popular roadside attraction for early motorists. Today it is a state historical park and part of the Michigan Historical Museum System. It is operated jointly by the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and by the Department of Natural Resources. Visit Walker Tavern Historic Site at the intersection of US 12 and M-50 and "experience" travel then and now.



### Walker Barn Gets New Roof

At Walker Tavern last summer, volunteers replaced the roof on its 19th century-style barn. The Michigan Volunteers, a group of men and women who restore historical buildings in National Parks and Forests around the country, braved thunderstorms to replace the barn's old cedar shakes with new ones. Friends of Walker Tavern, a support group for the Walker site, worked side by side with the Michigan Volunteers on the roof and also provided meals for the volunteers.

### Programs Prove Popular at Walker

Last season, Walker hosted Boy Scout and Girl Scout Day camps, school field trips, lifelong learners, homeschoolers and bus tours, as well as a series of programs designed for children and adults to enjoy together. Topics ranged from the history of birding to Civil War reenacting and from historic food ways to preserving family memories.

Is your school, club, church group or family looking for a unique experience? Would you like to have fun while learning about early travel in Michigan? If so, check out the educational programs and tours offered at Walker Tavern.

Programs and tours can be designed for the specific interests of groups of six people or more and for any age or mixture of ages. Call Cheryl Valentine at 517-467-4401 for more information and program fees.

## Join Us!

Become a partner with the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting Michigan's rich heritage.

### Your membership benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- A 10% discount at the Michigan Historical Museum stores
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide museum discounts through "Time Travelers"
- *Inside Michigan History* quarterly newsletter
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- Membership card
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

### For more information:

(517) 373-2565.

[www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory)

**Yes!** Please reserve the Friends of Michigan History membership indicated below

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## Thank You to Our Renewing Friends

William & Anna Anderson  
Lois Baumer  
Ann Bentley  
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Wallace and Irene Bronner Family  
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Donald Siegla  
Wayne Smith  
Evelyn Stieg  
Leo Stoner  
Carol VanEck  
Jonathan & Salome Walton  
William Warner  
Geoffrey & Terri Weller  
William & Joelene Wellman  
Geneva Wiskemann

### **FAYETTE**

Curt & Janet Lillie

## **News Notes** - Notice of Special Friends Meeting



A special Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) meeting will take place on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 10:00 AM (just prior to the Board of Directors' Meeting) at the Michigan Historical Center for the sole purpose of approving proposed amendments to the Friends' Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The proposed amendments, which are necessary to correct conflicts created by earlier amendments and to bring language into compliance with IRS regulations, will be made available for viewing after January 14, 2008 on the Friends' Internet website found at [www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/friendsofmichiganhistory). The proposed amendments also may be obtained by writing after January 14, 2008 to the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. at P.O. Box 17035, Lansing, Michigan 48901.

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### **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY** **WHO WE ARE:**

The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) is a membership-based federally recognized 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt Michigan non profit corporation to which tax deductible gifts can be made pursuant to Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Friends was created in 1991 and has as among its purposes to: provide volunteer services for the benefit of the Michigan Historical Museum and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan history; provide a means by which persons and organizations may contribute money to support history-related educational programs at the Michigan Historical Museum; sponsor the observation and commemoration of events historically significant and relevant to Michigan; and promote the knowledge and appreciation of Michigan's cultural heritage. The Friends also provides volunteer services and financial support for the benefit of archival and archaeological programs undertaken by the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan history. Recent organizational change includes the Friends granting of contractual affiliate status to the Friends of Fayette Historical State Park and Friends of Historical Walker Tavern. A rich diverse mix of member interests and degree of participation make the Friends an effective organization open to all who value Michigan's heritage.

Next Friends meeting: Monday, February 11, 2008

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